

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A bind processing method in which sheets of loose leaf paper are bound with a binder, the sheets of loose leaf paper having a plurality of punch holes formed along one side of the sheets of paper and the binder comprising a spine portion and a plurality of ~~upper and lower~~ first and second division ring portions arranged at regular intervals along both long sides of the spine portion, the spine portion being interposed between the ~~upper and lower~~ first and second division ring portions, the method comprising:

symmetrically driving pairs of ~~upper and lower~~ first and second pushers ~~symmetrically in the vertical direction~~ so as to close the ~~upper and lower~~ first and second division ring portions of the binder; and

engaging forward end portions of the ~~upper~~ first division ring portions with forward end portions of the ~~lower~~ second division ring portions within the punch holes formed on the sheets of loose leaf paper.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The bind processing method according to claim 1, wherein each of the pairs ~~upper and lower~~ first and second pushers comprises two sets of the pairs of ~~upper and lower~~ first and second pushers,

the two sets of pairs ~~upper and lower~~ first and second pushers are arranged in a longitudinal direction,

one set of the pair of ~~upper and lower~~ first and second pushers pinch back face sides of the ~~upper and lower~~ first and second division ring portions of the binder so as to rotate the ~~upper and lower~~ first and second division ring portions in a closing direction, and

another set of the pair of ~~upper and lower~~ first and second pushers pinch forward end sides of the division ring portion of the binder so as to engage the forward end portions of the opposing ~~upper and lower~~ first and second division ring portions with each other.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The bind processing method according to claim 1, further comprising:

supporting the sheets of paper to be bound in a sheet table, and

advancing and retreating the sheet table toward the binder when the pairs of ~~upper and lower~~ first and second pushers conduct binding, so that generation of abrasion between the division ring portion and inner wall faces of the punch holes can be suppressed when the division ring portions of the binder proceeds into the punch hole on the sheets of paper.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended/Withdrawn): A bind processing device for use with a binder comprising a spine portion and division ring portions arranged at regular intervals along both sides of the spine portion, the spine portion being interposed between the division ring portions, the device comprising:

~~an upper side~~ a first pusher and ~~a lower side~~ second pusher;

a drive mechanism that symmetrically drives the ~~upper side pusher and the lower side pusher~~ symmetrically in a vertical direction first and second ~~purshers~~; and

a drive motor that drives the drive mechanism,

wherein the ~~upper-side~~ first pusher and the ~~lower-side~~ second pusher are driven in a closing direction so as to close the division ring portions of the binder so that pairs of forward end portions of the division ring portions are engaged with each other ~~in~~ within punch holes on the sheets of loose leaf paper.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended/Withdrawn): The bind processing device according to claim 4, wherein the ~~upper and the lower~~ first and second pushers comprise:

~~first-upper~~ primary first pushers and ~~first-lower~~ primary second pushers, which are arranged in a longitudinal direction, and

~~second-upper~~ secondary first pushers and ~~second-lower~~ secondary second pushers, the ~~first-upper~~ primary first pushers and the ~~first-lower~~ primary second pushers pinch back face sides of ~~upper and lower~~ first and second division ring portions of the division ring portions of the binder and rotate the ~~upper and the lower~~ first and second division ring portions, and

the ~~second-upper~~ secondary first pusher and the ~~second-lower~~ secondary second pusher pinch forward end portions of the ~~upper and lower~~ first and second division ring portions of the division ring portions of the binder so that the forward end portions of the opposing ~~upper and lower~~ first and second division ring portions engage each other.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended/Withdrawn): The bind processing device according to claim 4, further comprising:

a sheet table for supporting sheets of paper to be bound; and

a table moving mechanism for advancing and retreating the sheet table to the binder, wherein

when binding is conducted by the ~~upper and lower pusher~~ first and second pushers, the sheet table is advanced toward the binder so as to suppress occurrence of abrasion caused between the division ring portions and the inner wall faces of the punch holes when the division ring portions of the binder proceeds into the punch holes.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended/Withdrawn): The bind processing device according to claim 4, further comprising:

~~an elevating~~ a pin provided on the sheet table, wherein the ~~elevating~~ pin is inserted into one of the punch holes of each of the sheets of paper on the sheet table so as to correct a positional deviation of the punch hole of each of the sheets of paper.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended/Withdrawn): The bind processing device according to claim 4, the drive mechanism comprising:

a feed screw arranged in the longitudinal direction having ~~an upper~~ a first half portion in which a screw is formed and a ~~lower~~ second half portion in which a screw inverse to the screw of the ~~upper~~ first half portion is formed; and

~~an upper~~ a first slider and a ~~lower~~ second slider, the ~~upper~~ first slider comprising a female screw and ~~lower~~ second slider comprising a female screw, the female screws of the ~~upper~~ first slider and the ~~lower~~ second slider can be engaged with the ~~upper~~ first half portion and the ~~lower~~ second half portion of the feed screw.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn): The bind processing device according to claim 4, the drive mechanism comprising:

- a pair of levers connected with each other by a pin; and
- a lever opening and closing drive mechanism.

Claim 10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A bind processing device for binding sheets of loose leaf paper with a binder, a plurality of punch holes being formed along one side of the sheets of loose leaf paper, and division ring portions being arranged at regular intervals along both long sides of a spine portion of the binder, the bind processing device comprising:

- a sheet table that supports the sheets of loose leaf paper; and
- ~~an elevating~~ a pin provided on the sheet table that enters into one of the punch holes of the sheets of paper so as to correct a positional deviation of the punch hole.

Claims 12 – 13 (Canceled).

Claim 14 (Currently Amended/Withdrawn): A finisher device for using a binder, the binder comprising a spine portion and division ring portions arranged at regular intervals along both long sides of the spine portion, the spine portion being interposed between the division ring portions, the finisher device comprising:

- ~~an upper-side~~ a first pusher and a ~~lower-side~~ second pusher;

a drive mechanism for symmetrically driving the ~~upper-side pusher and the lower-side pusher symmetrically with respect to the vertical direction~~ first and second pushers; and

a drive motor the drives the drive mechanism,

wherein the ~~upper-side pusher and the lower-side pusher~~ first and second pushers are driven in the closing direction so as to close the division ring portions of the binder, and a pair of forward end portions of the division ring portions are engaged with each other within punch holes on the sheets of loose leaf paper.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended/Withdrawn): A bookbinding device for using a binder, the binder comprising a spine portion and division ring portions arranged at regular intervals along both sides of the spine portion, the spine portion being interposed between the division ring portions, bookbinding device comprising:

~~an upper-side~~ a first pusher and a ~~lower-side~~ second pusher;

a drive mechanism for symmetrically driving the ~~upper-side~~ first pusher and the ~~lower side~~ second pusher ~~symmetrically with respect to the vertical direction~~; and

a drive motor that drives the drive mechanism,

wherein the ~~upper-side pusher and the lower-side pusher~~ first and second pushers are driven in the closing direction so as to close the division ring portions of the binder, and a pair of forward end portions of the division ring portions are engaged with each other within punch holes on the sheets of loose leaf paper.

Claims 16 – 17 (Canceled).

Claim 18 (Currently Amended/Withdrawn): A finisher device for binding sheets of loose leaf paper with a binder, each sheet of loose leaf paper comprising, along one side, a plurality of punch holes, the binder comprising a spine portion and division ring portions arranged at regular intervals along both long sides of the spine portion, the finisher device comprising:

a sheet table for supporting the sheets of loose leaf paper; and

~~an elevating~~ a pin provided on the sheet table, the ~~elevating~~ pin enters into one of the punch holes of each of the sheets of paper so as to correct a positional deviation of the punch hole of each sheet of paper.

Claim 19 (Currently Amended/Withdrawn): A bookbinding device for binding sheets of loose leaf paper with a binder, each sheet of loose leaf paper comprising, along one side, a plurality of punch holes, the binder comprising a spine portion and division ring portions arranged at regular intervals along both long sides of the spine portion, the bookbinding device comprising:

a sheet table for supporting the sheets of loose leaf paper; and

~~an elevating~~ a pin provided on the sheet table, the ~~elevating~~ pin enters into one of the punch holes of each of the sheets of paper so as to correct a positional deviation of the punch hole of each sheet of paper.